6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL 10021-74-Region 3]

Clean Water Act: No-Discharge Zones for Vessel Sewage in Maryland and Virginia

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice—final determination.

SUMMARY: On behalf of the State of Maryland, the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources requested that the Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3 approve a no-discharge zone for thirteen water bodies in Anne Arundel County, Maryland pursuant to the Clean Water Act. After review of Maryland's application, EPA determined that adequate facilities for the safe and sanitary removal and treatment of sewage from all vessels are reasonable available for all thirteen waterbodies within Anne Arundel County. The application is available upon request from EPA (at the email address below).

DATES: This approval is effective upon the date of publication in the Federal Register on [INSTERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ferry Akbar Buchanan, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region III. Telephone: (215) 814-2570; email address: AkbarBuchanan.Ferry@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Pursuant to Clean Water Act section 312(f)(3), if any state determines that the protection and enhancement of the quality of some or all of the state's waters require greater environmental protection, the state may designate the waters as a vessel sewage no-discharge zone. However, the state may not establish the no-discharge zone until EPA has determined that adequate pumpout facilities for the safe and sanitary removal and treatment of sewage from all vessels are reasonably available for the proposed waters. EPA's implementing regulations, 40 CFR part 140,

require that the state apply to EPA to obtain such a determination, and identify the types of information that must be included in the application. This includes a certification of need for the no-discharge zone and information regarding the vessel population and pumpout facilities.

The proposed no-discharge zone includes thirteen water bodies wholly within Anne Arundel County, Maryland: Stoney Creek, Rock Creek, Bodkin Creek, the Atlantic Marina Resort, Magothy and Little Magothy Rivers, Severn River, South River, West and Rhode Rivers, Podickory Creek, Sandy Point/Mezick Ponds, Whitehall Bay, Oyster Cove and Fishing Creek. While these waterbodies constitute nearly all of the county's waters, a few water bodies have not been proposed for the no-discharge zone designation. These include two inter-jurisdictional rivers that border the county, the Patapsco River and Patuxent River, as well as Curtis Creek. The proposed no-discharge zone encompasses a total area of 27,379 acres, expanding upon an existing 3,500 acre no-discharge zone for Herring Bay that was approved in 2002 (67 FR 1352, January 10, 2002). The table below provides the coordinates delineating the proposed no-discharge zone boundaries for each of the thirteen waterbodies.

Waterbody	Water	Limits	Area (acres)	
Stony Creek	39.1723°N, 76.5171°W	to	39.1725°N, 76.5126°W	677
Rock Creek	39.1614°N, 76.5004°W	to	39.1625°N, 76.4862°W	524
South Shore, Patapsco River	39.1472°N, 76.4589°W	to	39.1471°N, 76.4588°W	2
Bodkin Creek	39.1346°N, 76.4398°W	to	39.1321°N, 76.4378°W	609
Magothy and Little Magothy Rivers	39.0597°N, 76.4332°W	to	39.0527°N, 76.4382°W	5,879
Podickory Creek	39.0328°N, 76.4040°W	to	39.0317°N, 76.4048°W	9
Sandy Point/Mezick Ponds	39.0082°N, 76.4031°W	to	39.0081°N, 76.4033°W	47
Whitehall Bay	38.9748°N, 76.4547°W	to	38.9871°N, 76.4268°W	1,599
Severn River	38.9748°N, 76.4547°W	to	38.9411°N, 76.4502°W	7,497
Oyster Creek	38.9274°N, 76.4638°W	to	38.9273°N, 76.4634°W	34
Fishing Creek	38.9147°N, 76.4590°W	to	38.9073°N, 76.4600°W	228
South River	38.9073°N, 76.4600°W	to	38.8877°N, 76.4898°W	5,904
West and Rhode Rivers	38.8877°N, 76.4898°W	То	38.8531°N, 76.4959°W	4,370
		•	Total Area	27,379

In the application, Maryland certified that the waters of the City of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County require greater environmental protection than provided by currently applicable Federal standards for vessel sewage discharges. The Magothy River, Whitehall Bay/Meredith River, Severn River, South River, Rhode River and West River have been listed on current or

previous Clean Water Act 303(d) lists of impaired waters by Maryland as impaired for shellfish harvesting due to fecal coliform. As such, many shellfish beds are restricted or closed. All except Whitehall Bay/Meredith Creek are also impaired for nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) and all except the Whitehall Bay/Meredith Creek and West River for total suspended solids. The state anticipates that a no-discharge zone designation would help reduce levels of nutrients, total suspended solids, and fecal coliform within these impaired waters.

The application also highlights the importance of boating in Anne Arundel County. The county is home to the U.S. Naval Academy, has hosted the U.S. Sailboat and Powerboat Shows annually since 1970, and is known as the "The Nation's Sailing Capital." According to the application's sources, there are approximately 96 recreational boating businesses in Anne Arundel County, plus additional businesses that support and depend on recreational crabbing and fishing.

The State of Maryland provided documentation indicating that the maximum total vessel population is estimated to be 29,789 vessels, the majority of which are recreational. The most conservative vessel population estimates provided by Maryland suggest that there are 7,182 vessels less than 16 feet in length, 10,307 vessels between 16 feet and 26 feet in length, 9,072 vessels between 26 feet and 40 feet in length, and 3,228 vessels greater than 40 feet in length. Commercial traffic on these waterways is limited to boat rental companies, public charter vessels and several small cruise ships. Based on the number and size of vessels and EPA guidance on the subject ("Protecting Coastal Waters from Vessel and Marina Discharges: A Guide for State and Local Officials, Volume 1. Establishing No-Discharge Areas under section 312 of the Clean Water Act" (EPA 842-B-94-004, August 1994)), the estimated number of vessels requiring pumpout facilities in the City of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County during peak occupancy is 2,924 vessels.

Based on Maryland's vessel population estimates and EPA guidance, approximately 46 pumpout facilities are needed to adequately service the vessel population. Maryland identified 61

marinas offering public pumpout service, including 59 stationary units, nine portable units and three mobile pumpout boats. The application provides additional information regarding height and draft limitations for accessing pumpout facilities. EPA has determined that vessels using the proposed waters will not be excluded due to any such limitations. A list of the facilities, phone numbers, locations and hours of operation follows.

Station	Location	Phone	Hours	Depth	Off Season Operation	Limited Overhead	Address	
AREA : PATAPS	AREA: PATAPSCO RIVER (11)							
Atlantic Marina	Patapsco	410-437-	9-5 Daily	4'	No	NA	2010	
Resort	River	6926					Knollview	
	(mouth)						Ave,	
							Pasadena,	
							MD 21122	
Blake's Bar	Patapsco	410-255-	8-6 Daily	4'	No	NA	208 Bar	
Harbor	River Rock	5500					Harbor Rd,	
	Creek						Pasadena,	
							MD 21122	
Fairview	Patapsco	410-437-	Mon-Fri	5'	No	NA	1575	
Marina	River Rock	3400	8-4; Sat-				Fairview	
	Creek		Sun 8-3				Beach Rd,	
							Pasadena,	
							MD 21122	
Hammock	Patapsco	410-437-	10-4 daily	7'	No	NA	8083	
Island Marina	River	1870					Ventnor	
	Bodkin						Rd,	
	Creek						Pasadena,	
							MD 21122	
Maryland	Patapsco	410-255-	8-4 daily	17'	Yes	NA	1500	
Yacht Club	River Rock	4444					Fairview	
	Creek						Beach Rd,	
							Pasadena,	
							MD 21122	
Nabbs Creek	Patapsco	410-437-	8:30-5	6'	No	Yes	864 Nabbs	
Marina	River	0402	daily				Creek Rd,	
	Stoney						Glen	
	Creek						Burnie,	
							MD 21060	
Oak Harbor	Patapsco	410-255-	24-7	15'	No	NA	1343 Old	

Marina	River Rock Creek	4070					Water Oak Point Rd, Pasadena, MD 21122
Pasadena Yacht Yard	Patapsco River Rock Creek	410-255- 1771	9-5 daily	4'	No	NA	8631 Fort Smallwood Road Pasadena, MD 21122
Pleasure Cove Marina	Patapsco River Bodkin Creek	410-437- 6600	Mon-Thur 9-6; Fri- Sun 9-8	8'	Yes	NA	1701 Poplar Ridge Rd, Pasadena, MD 21122
Ventnor Marina	Patapsco River Bodkin Creek	410-255- 4100	9-5 daily	10'	Yes	NA	8070 Ventnor Rd, Pasadena, MD 21122
White Rocks Marina & Boatyard	Patapsco River Rock Creek	410-255- 3800	Mon-Fri 9-3; Sat 11-2	14'	No	NA	1402 Colony Rd, Pasadena, MD 21122
■ AREA: MAGOTHY RIVER (7)							
Atlantic Marina on the Magothy	Magothy River/Gray s Creek	410-360- 2500	9-5 daily	6'	No	NA	487 New York Ave, Pasadena, MD 21122
Fairwinds Marina	Magothy Marina	410-974- 0758	8-5 daily	6'	No	NA	1000 Fairwinds Dr, Annapolis, MD 21409
Ferry Point Marina	Magothy River/Mill Creek	410-544- 6368	7am-8pm daily	14'	Yes	NA	1606 Marina Dr, Trappe, MD 21673

Hamilton Harbour	Magothy River	410-647- 0733	Thurs- Tues 9-5	12'	No	NA	368 North Dr,
Marina							Severna Park, MD
Magothy Marina	Magothy River	410-647- 2356	Mon-Thur 8-6, Fri- sun 8-8	16'	No	NA	21146 360 Magothy Rd, Severna Park, MD 21146
Podickory Point Yacht Club	Chesapea ke Bay	410-757- 8000	9-5 daily	5'	No	NA	2116 Bay Front Terrace, Annapolis, MD 21409
Sandy Point State Park	Chesapea ke Bay	410-974- 2149	24-7	6'	No	NA	1100 E College Pkwy, Annapolis, MD 21409
■ AREA : SEVERN RIVER (17)						,	
Annapolis City Marina	Severn River Spa Creek	410-268- 0660	8-8 daily	14'	Upon Request	NA	410 Severn Ave, Annapolis, MD 21403
Annapolis Landing Marina	Severn River Back Creek	410-263- 0090	10-5 daily	6'	No	NA	980 Awald Rd, Annapolis, MD 21403
Annapolis Maryland Capital Yacht Club	Severn River Back Creek	410-269- 5219	9-5 daily	8'	No	NA	16 Chesapea ke Landing, Annapolis, MD 21403

Bert Jabin's Yacht Yard	Severn River Back Creek	410-268- 9667	8-4:30 daily	8'	No	NA	7310 Edgewood Rd, Annapolis, MD 21403
Chesapeake Harbour Marina	Chesapea ke Bay	410-268- 1969	9-5 daily	8'	No	NA	2030 Chesapea ke Harbour Dr E, Annapolis, MD 21403
City of Annapolis Pumpout Boat	Severn River Spa Creek	410-320- 6852	Mon- Sat 8-4:30	na	na	NA	na
Eastport Yacht Center	Severn River Back Creek	410-280- 9988	8-4 daily	8'	No	NA	726 2nd St, Annapolis, MD 21403
Horn Point Harbour Marina	Severn River Back Creek	410-263- 0550	9-5 daily	8'	No	NA	105 Eastern Ave, Annapolis, MD 21403
JPort Marina	Severn River Back Creek	410-280- 8692	9-5 daily	9'	No	NA	7074 Bembe Beach Rd, Annapolis, MD 21403
Little John Marina	Severn River Brewer Creek	410-841- 6491	9-5 daily	15'	No	NA	134 Sherwood Forest Road, Sherwood Forest, MD 21405
Mears Marina	Severn River Back Creek	410-268- 8282	24-7	10'	No	NA	519 Chester Ave, Annapolis,

							MD 21403
Pines on the	Severn	410-370-	24-7	10'	No	NA	21012,
Severn	River/Chas	2948					Arnold,
	e Creek						MD 21012
Port Annapolis	Severn	410-269-	8-4:30	10'	Yes	NA	7074
Marina	River Back	1990	daily				Bembe
	Creek						Beach Rd,
							Annapolis,
							MD 21403
Smith's Marina	Severn	410-923-	8 - 8 daily	7'	No	Yes	529
	River Little	3444					Ridgley
	Round Bay						Rd,
							Crownsvill
							e, MD
T. D		440.004				N.1.0	21032
The President	Severn	410-991-	7-7 daily	5'	No	NA	
Point	River Spa	9381					
Watergate	Creek Severn	443-926-	24-7	7'	No	NA	655
Pointe Marina	River/Back	1303	24-1	'	INO	INA	Americana
1 office Warma	Creek	1000					Dr,
	Orock						Annapolis,
							MD 21403
Yacht Haven of	Severn	410-267-	Mon-Fri	11'	No	NA	326 First
Annapolis	River Spa	7654	7:30-4:30				St,
	Creek						Annapolis,
							MD 21403
■ AREA:							
SOUTH							
RIVER (13)		T	T	I		1	
Anchor Yacht	South	410-798-	8-5 daily	5'	No	NA	1048
Basin	River	1431					Turkey
	Selby Bay						Point Rd,
							Edgewater
							, MD
							21037
Arundel on the	South	443-253-	dawn to	4-6'	Yes	NA	PO Box
Bay	River/Fishi	0596	dusk				4665,
	ng Creek						Annapolis

Fishing Creek	South River Duvall Creek		24-7	7'	No	NA	122 Cherry Lane, Annapolis 21403
Holiday Point Marina	South River Selby Bay	410-956- 2208	Mon-Fri 7:30-4; Sat by appointm ent	6'	Yes	NA	3774 Beach Dr Blvd # C, Edgewater , MD 21037
Liberty Marina	South River	410-266- 5633	8-4:30 daily	15'	Yes	Yes	64 Old South River Rd, Edgewater , MD 21037
Mayo Ridge Marina	South River Ramsey Lake	410-798- 1952	9-7 daily	5'	Yes	NA	1293 Mayo Ridge Rd, Edgewater , MD 21037
Norris Marina	South River Ramsey Lake	410-798- 0275	8-4 daily	8'	No	Yes	1111 Turkey Point Rd, Edgewater , MD 21037
Oak Grove Marine Center	South River	410-266- 6696	Mon-Fri 10-6; Sat- Sun 8-7	9'	No	NA	2820 Solomons Island Rd, Edgewater , MD 21037
Oyster Harbor	South River/ Oyster Creek	410-280- 8999	24-7	6'	No	NA	PO Box 3174, Annapolis
Pier 7 Marina	South River	410-956- 2288	9-5 daily	12'	No	Yes	48 S River Road

							South, Edgewater , MD 21037
Pocahontas Marina	South River/ Pocahonta s Creek	410-533- 8752	24-7	10'	Yes	NA	3365 Pocahonta s Drive Edgewater , MD 21037
Selby Bay Marina	South River Selby Bay	410-798- 0232	9-5 daily	8'	Yes	NA	931 Selby Blvd, Edgewater , MD 21037
Turkey Point Marina	South River Ramsey Lake	410-798- 1369	Tues-Sat 9-5	4'	No	No	1107 Turkey Point Rd, Edgewater , MD 21037
■ AREA: RHODE RIVER (5)							12.000
Blue Water Marina	Rhode River, Bear Neck Creek	410-798- 6968	10-5 daily	10'	No	NA	1024 Carrs Wharf Rd, Edgewater , MD 21037
Cadle Creek Marina	Rhode River Cadle Creek	410-798- 1915	9-5 daily	6'	No	NA	4159 Cadle Creek Rd, Edgewater , MD 21037
Casa Rio Marina	Rhode River Cadle Creek	410-798- 4731	Mon-Fri 8 - 4	5'	Yes	NA	4079 Cadle Creek Rd, Mayo, MD

							21106
Rhode River	Rhode	410-798-	8-5 daily	9'	No	NA	3932
Marina	River Back	1658					Germanto
	Neck						wn Rd,
	Creek						Edgewater
							, MD
							21037
West/Rhode	Rhode	443-221-	Fri- Mon		No	NA	4800
Riverkeeper	River	5104 or	8-6				Atwell
Pumpout Boat		VHF					Road,
·		channel					Edgewater
		71					, MD
							21037
■ AREA :		ı	1	•		1	
WEST							
RIVER (7)							
Backyard	West	301-261-	8-4 daily	10'	Yes	NA	4819
Boats	River/Parri sh Creek	5115					Woods Wharf Rd
							Shady
							Side, MD 20764
Chesapeake	West River	410-867-	Wed-Mon	8'	No	NA	4943 Hine
Yacht Club		1500	9-4				Dr, Shady Side, MD
							20764
Hartge Yacht Harbor	West River	443-607- 6306	Mon-Fri 8-5; Sat-	10'	No	NA	4883 Church Ln,
Tiarboi		0300	Sun 9-5				Galesville,
Shady Oaks	West River	410-267-	8-8 daily	5'	No	NA	MD 20765 846 Shady
Shady Oaks Marina	West Kivei	1808	0-0 dally	3	INO	INA	Oaks Rd,
							West
							River, MD 20778
West/Rhode	West River	443-221-	Fri-Mon		No	NA	4800
River Keeper Pump out		5104 or VHF	8-6				Atwell Road,
p		channel					Edgewater
		71					, MD 21037
West River	West River	410-867-	M-Th 9-5	8'	No	NA	4801
Fuel Dock		1444	S/S 8-6				Riverside Dr.
			Fri 9-6				Galesville,
Woot Diver	Most Diver	201 670	0 G da:1.	7'	Voc	NΙΔ	MD 20765
West River Yacht Harbor	West River	301-672- 3473	8-6 daily	7'	Yes	NA	4801 Riverside
Condo							Dr,
							Galesville, MD 20765

■ AREA:							
WHITEHALL BAY (1)							
Hinkley Yacht Club	Whitehall Creek	443-951- 4380	M-F 8-9 Weekend s by appointm ent	12'	Yes	NA	1656 Homewoo d Landing Road Whitehall, Annapolis, MD 21409

As part of the determination, EPA considered the costs associated with the adequacy and availability of pumpout facilities and determined that costs are minimal. As shown in the table below, pumpout facilities located within the proposed no-discharge zone charge fees that range from \$3 to \$50, with 52 of 61 available facilities charging \$5 or less, including 15 facilities that are free to use. According to Maryland's application, the majority of commercial vessels operating in the proposed no-discharge zone are already equipped with holding tank capacity and therefore are not expected to experience incremental cost increases as a result of the designation.

Fee	Number of Pumpout Facilities	Proportion of Pumpout
		Facilities
Free	15	24%
\$3	1	1.5%
\$5	37	62%
\$10	5	8%
\$15	2	3%
\$50	1	1.5%
Total	61	100%

In order to solicit input on Maryland's application, EPA published a tentative affirmative determination in the Federal Register on September 23, 2020, thereby opening a 30-day public comment period (85 FR 59788). EPA received comments from five individuals regarding establishment of a no-discharge zone in Anne Arundel County and its tributaries. Of those, one supported and three opposed the effort. The other commenter neither supported nor opposed the

no-discharge zone, and instead inquired whether the commenter could receive a temporary exemption from enforcement of this no-discharge zone. Since EPA does not enforce this requirement once approved, that comment is outside the scope of EPA's authority to respond. Comments critical of establishing a no-discharge zone focused on three primary issues.

Issue 1: Nearby municipalities lack the proper waste treatment system that often overflow and result in spilling sewage to nearby waters.

Response 1: In Maryland's application, the state identifies how collected waste is handled by each individual pumpout facility. Some pumpout facilities temporarily store sewage onsite in a holding tank for later pumpout by a septic hauler that ultimately transports the sewage to a wastewater treatment plant licensed to operate in the state of Maryland. The remaining facilities are directly served by the public sewer, where sewage is directly deposited into the public sewer systems. Maryland confirms that these systems comply all applicable regulations. Treatment facilities are regulated by Maryland through NPDES permits under CWA section 402 and addressed in the Code of Maryland Regulations. Any specific overflows or spills from such facilities may further be addressed further through enforcement and/or compliance efforts. EPA reviewed recent data pertaining to overflows and found no significant violations of such permit requirements. Additionally, there are no Combined Sewer Systems in the proposed waters. EPA does not believe the closest CSO communities have any significant impact on these waters; furthermore, those programs are being adequately addressed through ongoing separation projects and/or in accordance with the schedule for approved long term control plans.

Issue 2: The number of available pumpouts is sufficient for the resident vessel population but not for the transient vessel population in Whitehall Bay.

Response 2: In addition to the stationary pumpout facility open for public use in Whitehall Bay, nearby facilities are available to the southwest in Severn River (16 facilities) and to the northeast in Sandy Point/Mezick's Pond (one facility). As such, transient vessel operators have an option available to them while operating within Whitehall Bay, as well as before or after

transiting through the area.

Issue 3: Most pumpout facilities are not open after dark and very few are open during winter. Response 3: The commenter is correct that few pumpout facilities offer around-the-clock service. However, numerous facilities across the proposed no-discharge zone are available to service vessels into the late afternoon and evening. It is reasonable to expect that vessel operators can identify suitable times and locations to pumpout during facility operating hours. During the off-season (winter) months, vessels can be pumped out at the six different pumpout facilities across the proposed no-discharge zone that continue to operate. The Annapolis City pumpout boat also remains in service during this time. While most pumpout facilities are closed, Maryland estimates that only a small percentage of vessels operate during the off-season, and typically only do so for short day trips. As such, EPA has determined that, because the reduction in pumpout service capacity coincides with a reduction in demand for pumpout services, the available facilities during the off-season months remain adequate and reasonably available to the small number of vessels requiring pumpouts.

Based on the information provided by the State of Maryland and after consideration of the comments received, as well as information otherwise available to EPA, EPA hereby issues a final affirmative determination that adequate facilities for the safe and sanitary removal and treatment of sewage from all vessels are reasonably available for the thirteen identified waterbodies located in the City of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County and its tributaries such that the State of Maryland may establish a vessel sewage no-discharge zone.

Through this notification, EPA also amends one of the geographic coordinates from an existing no-discharge zone for Perrin River. EPA's final affirmative determination for Sarah Creek and Perrin River, Virginia, published in the Federal Register on September 23, 2020, incorrectly identified one of the coordinates delineating the no-discharge zone boundary at the mouth of the Perrin River as 37°15′ 47.18″ N, 76°25′ 20.73" W (85 FR 59796). This notification hereby corrects this coordinate to 37°15′ 43.52" N, 76°25′25.71" W (NAD 83).

Diana Esher,

Acting Regional Administrator,

EPA Region III.

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